

**Go Out on a Limb, Try Something New**  
**Rick Abrahamson**  
**SD Cooperative Extension Educator-Horticulture**  
**For Week of September 19, 2011**

Autumn is a wonderful time of the year, but when the first frost comes one does contemplate the growing season. Yes, we can delay the actual death of our garden plants by covering, watering, or even applying heat but the bottom line here is that the season will be ending soon. I really hate to be so gloomy but bear with me and hopefully you will see where I am going.

The gardening season consists of several smaller seasons. The best known of these is the growing season, when we get to watch our plants grow. The next of course is harvest time. Most of us have completed our harvest by now as we have had a very nice fall so far. After harvest we should be busy putting our gardens to bed. This should take place in the next few weeks. The next part is the planning stage. This time is probably the most important for our gardens as we get to decide what new plants we are going to try next year. We typically wait until the seed catalogs come to start digging in with planning but I would challenge you to get a jump on the planning stage by thinking about some new varieties for 2012.

Each year several new varieties are released. Many of these varieties can be sown from seed and should be available when those wonderful catalogs come. I have included a clip and save table for you to post on your refrigerator for later use. Hopefully you will see some of these varieties for next year.

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
Argyranthemum 'Flutterby™ Yellow'	<i>Argyranthemum frutescens</i>	Plant with good vigor displaying large yellow daisy flowers.
Begonia 'Beaucoup Red'	<i>Begonia x hybrida</i>	Mounded habit that performs well in full sun. Large flowers displayed above foliage for a impressive basket plant.
Chili Pepper 'Basket of Fire'	<i>Capsicum frutescens</i>	First true hanging basket pepper that add color and character ranging from cream to orange and maturing to red.
Dianthus 'Diana Lavender Picotee'	<i>Dianthus chinensis</i>	Early flowering plant with a dwarf plant habit sporting large single blooms.
Petunia F <sub>1</sub> 'Easy Wave Neon Rose'	<i>Petunia x hybrida</i>	Great plant for a sunny location if you want lots of bold color and continuous bloom.
Sunflower 'Coconut Ice'	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	White sunflower growing 5'-6' tall. Single head with coconut brown centers (4"-8" across) and rich creamy vanilla transitioning to white petals.

Viola F <sub>1</sub> 'Floral Power® Yellow Blotch Red Wing'	<i>Viola cornuta</i>	Early spring flowering with an abundance of round thick petaled blooms showing red/yellow bicolor flowers.
Zinnia 'Profusion Sunrise Mix'	<i>Zinnia x hybrida</i>	Producing masses of flowers in fire, yellow, and white colors. Tolerant of mildew and alternaria makes this a perfect plant in mixed containers.
Cabbage 'Red Express'	<i>Brassica oleracea</i>	Super early red cabbage (58 days), small plant with dense oval heads.
Cucumber 'Salt and Pepper'	<i>Cucumis sativus</i>	First white-skinned cucumber that is powdery mildew resistant. Improved flavor over other white cucumbers.
Onion Candy	<i>Allium cepa</i>	Large sweet hybrid onion. Easy to grow for beginners and does well almost anywhere.
Pepper 'Orange Blaze'	<i>Capsicum annum</i>	Sweet orange bell pepper sporting 3 to 4-inch long fruits and 1-1/2 inch wide with 2-3 lobes.
Tomato 'Tie-Dye'	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	Fruit interior is splashed with yellow-orange and red colors.

All of the varieties listed have been tested at several locations prior to release and many of them have the All American Selections stamp of approval. Trying new varieties is kind of a risk so I suggest you plant both the tried and true varieties you have used for many years but also mix in a few new ones. You may find that these new varieties will be just as good as the old and may even be better.

My list represents a partial list of what is being released for 2012. There are many others; I have only selected a sampling of what is available.

Source: National Garden Bureau (more info can be found at <http://ngb.org>)

Feel free to call me at 605-394-2188 or email to [ricky.abrahamson@sdstate.edu](mailto:ricky.abrahamson@sdstate.edu) if you have additional questions about new varieties for 2012.